



**SERVICE COMMITTEE
MONDAY JULY 6, 2015**

COMMITTEE MEETING:

**PLACE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7232 E. MAIN ST, REYNOLDBURG, OH 43068**

1. Call to Order

PRESENT: Barrett, Kelly, McGrady III, Clemens, Cotner, Long, Skinner, Joseph
ABSENT:

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda stands approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Service Committee – Committee Meeting – June 15, 2015

Minutes stand approved.

4. Discussion

a. Liquor Permit Requests: Save-A-Lot and Eastside Sports Bar

Chairman Clemens: Item number 4. Is Liquor permit requests. The first liquor permit request is Sav-A-Lot, and this is next to the Odd Lots, in the shopping center. Chief.

Chief O'Neill: Thank you Chairman Clemens. We got this notification that they're going to open a Sav-A-Lot at 6308 E. Livingston Ave., which is, the best way to describe it would be, if you have been here long enough, the Hart's part of the Hart's/Big Bear store. It's the eastern most part of that building. They want to have a beer only containers license. They operate 1300 stores nationwide, and we did several checks to see if we could come up with any reason. Their liquor permits were pretty much spotless throughout the state of Ohio. Given what they are talking about and the distribution they are asking for, we did not see any reason to oppose this application.

Chairman Clemens: Are there any questions for Chief O'Neill? Yes, Councilman McGrady.

Mr. McGrady: Well my question is not for Chief O'Neill, I am not in agreement with any additional permits in that corridor. That's one, two, three, four, five, six, that's seven in that area. And I would like to move for a vote.

Chairman Clemens: I would like to call a vote on letting that stand as is, and not send any requests back.

Ms. Kelly: Can I get clarification on what we are voting on?

Chairman Clemens: What we are doing is, usually we do not do anything. He would like to vote against it.

Attorney Hood: Why don't you ask if there is a motion to oppose the application? If Councilman McGrady would make that motion, you could call the roll vote, if there is a second.

Chairman Clemens: Is there a motion to oppose?

Mr. McGrady: Yes, I would like to make a motion to oppose this liquor permit request.

Chairman Clemens: There has been a motion by Councilman McGrady to oppose the liquor permit. Is there a second? No second, stands as it is. Next item is the liquor permit for Eastside Sports Bar. If I am not mistaken, this would be in the Day's Inn, where they use to have one and so forth.

Chief O'Neill: That is correct. It's been operated under several different business names. The current owner is applying for a new permit. This is a D5 permit, for a hotel with fifty or more rooms. They are asking to sell liquor and beer on premise. Given the history that we have had there, I don't think this is going to adversely effect the neighborhood or surrounding community.

Chairman Clemens: Thank you Chief. Are there any questions for Chief O'Neill? Yes Councilman McGrady.

Mr. McGrady: You say you don't think it will adversely effect, but, have you taken into consideration the two human trafficking busts that were at that hotel, in this decision here?

Chief O'Neill: Have we taken that into consideration?

Mr. McGrady: Yes.

Chief O'Neal: Yes we have. Those were, in our opinion, instances that originated outside the city of Reynoldsburg, well beyond the reach of the liquor establishment inside this particular hotel. We are monitoring what goes on down there. And, based on our requirements for opposing an application for a liquor permit, this didn't.

Mr. McGrady: Ok. I would like to, go ahead.

Mr. Cotner: What are your requirements for being able to oppose an application?

Chief O'Neill: It's pretty extensive. A lot of it is geographic in nature. Is it close to a church, a school? Are there a significant number of violations by this permit holder, or at this establishment. None of those things came into play. Yes there is no denying it, there is a level of criminal activity that takes place in that area, in the hotel, around the hotel, the parking lot, in some of the hotels across the street, in both the Reynoldsburg and Columbus side of Brice Rd. No question about it. That's the reason we placed a community resource officer down in that area. That's the reason that we opened the substation down in that area, was to try to get a better handle on what's going on down there. Sort of a grassroots presence with our department. But gains in those areas are typically slow. We are getting there. We are starting to sort of move south from the Century City area. And we are seeing results down there. It's just going to take us a while.

Mr. Cotner: Wouldn't there be some concerns with having a bar in this particular hotel? Knowing there are some human trafficking issues in that corridor? It seems this could be an open door to more problems. That maybe some of that Columbus trafficking could come over to that side. It seems like an even bigger risk than just having a restaurant in there without the liquor permit. It just seems to worry me a little bit. I'm not real, do we have, Mr. Hood, do we have abilities to vote against a liquor permit with some of these concerns?

Attorney Hood: You have the right as a legislative authority to make opposition to it. And, I have represented the Council and the City in these hearings before. Actually at this location, with previous owners. We were not successful in our objections. We have limited authority to place objections before the Board, or Commission, I should say. We have an Administrative Law Judge that conducts a hearing, both sides are allowed to submit evidence, and that hearing officer makes the final decision. Going back to your first question Councilman Cotner, I have advised the Council prior to this that there is limited ways and bona fide objections that we can raise. Its not, we don't need another alcohol establishment, or a concentration issue, or something like that. Those are things the state takes into consideration themselves. Legislative authority has a limited number of things that they can put a bona fide objection to. They're listed on their website, and I have pamphlets I can give to you guys if you have need of them, with them. But they're limited, the investigation focuses on before they bring to you.

Mr. Cotner: So, even if we don't like it, and I strongly disagree with this, it may not get us anywhere trying to oppose this.

Attorney Hood: I don't want to prejudge it, but, I can tell you that this council formally took action, I represented the City in a hearing. I thought we had good and convincing evidence that it should not be. The outcome of that hearing was, ultimately it was allowed, and then the partner that we really had a problem with, one of the people who was listed on the application themselves, was a pretty well known criminal, not involved in this at all, but that was the basis of our objection, and he voluntarily removed himself from the application. And ultimately, the transfer was allowed. So, you have the right to make your feelings known here, and if you guys object, and if it's a proper objection, I will represent the City at the hearing.

Chairman Clemens: Are there any other questions for Chief.

Ms. Kelly: Oh sorry, yes.

Chairman Clemens: Councilman Kelly.

Ms. Kelly: Is there currently an establishment at the Day's Inn, at the bar, currently open and running?

Chief O'Neill: Yes there is.

Ms. Kelly: So this isn't a new? I guess what I am saying is, having a bar there, there already has been, it is going on. Is this a new owner?

Chief O'Neill: Yes.

Ms. Kelly: So that's why there is a new permit, because the owner has changed? Just double checking.

Mr. Clemens: I would think there has probably been a bar there for forty years.

Mr. Long: Longer than that.

Attorney Hood: And as I said, the objection that council put before the Board, had more to do with the proposed ownership transfer, than the bar itself. Those folks were not involved with this request.

Chairman Clemens: Are there any other questions for Chief.

Mr. McGrady: No. I would like to make a motion that we object to the Eastside Sports Bar.

Chairman Clemens: I have a motion from Councilman McGrady to object to the Eastside Sports Bar. Do I have a second? If not, there will be no action taken. Thank you Chief.